



Chris Owens
Director

Not only is this evening Halloween, but it is the last evening of October and therefore, Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Page 2 of this newsletter has a reminder of resources available to victims of violence, like "Ride to Safety" and VINE.

Here are some results that remind us how domestic violence impacts families, as we continue to collect data related to Emergency Protection Orders:

- 61.8% of Petitioners (those filing for protection) stated there were children in the household.
- 93.1% of Petitioners with children in the household stated they feared for the safety of their children.
- More than 49% of all Petitioners stated the other person had made reference to killing themselves or others.
- 59% of all Petitioners stated the other person had "put his hands" on them.

October: Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By: Josie Timmons, OFW Intern

Take Back the Night (TBTN) was held September 24, 2013. It is an annual demonstration at the University of Louisville, which is put on by the PEACC organization on campus. This is a powerful event that I try to attend yearly, and was able to attend this year, with Office for Women. I would like to take a moment to reflect on my experience this year.

Domestic violence, rape and rape culture, are all very serious societal issues facing us today; some argue they are the biggest issues. TBTN brings together many local organizations who offer information, resources and counseling. Beyond the resource tables provided, there is also time allocated during a "Speak Out", which allows victims of rape and domestic violence, to share their story either in person or via text message. This is one of the most important events of the evening. During these stories there are somber moments, yet after hearing people tell their stories, I felt a rush of emotions: sadness, pride, supportiveness and togetherness. The point of the Speak Out is to give the person back their voice, to no longer hide in fear of the perpetrators, or of what others may think. It is always a very powerful and emotional point in the evening.

After all have spoken, the night concludes with a march around campus, where a large group of supportive people yell chants such as "No matter where we are, no matter where we go, yes means yes and no means no!". Taking part in the march feels liberating, like you have a voice that is being heard, whether you spoke on stage that night or not.

What I found even more interesting and ironic, was the walk to the bus stop that same evening. The crowd had dissipated and it was now dark. I was all alone, except for one young man waiting for the bus, and the occasional passer-by walking on the sidewalk. Of course I had my pepper spray in hand, looking around and attempting to be very aware of my surroundings, and just like that, the power I had felt during the march had quickly vanished, and that same old feeling of fear crept in. One of the purposes of TBTN is to draw attention to the ways in which women's movements, especially at night, are constricted due to the threat of violence. Just another reason, I suppose, of exactly why we need events like Take Back the Night, where women can walk around campus in the dark and not be fearful, a moment in time when we can feel powerful.. even if it is for only a fleeting moment.

Below : Groups performing during TBTN 2013 on U of L's Campus near the Red Barn.



Louisville Metro Office for Women (OFW) uses policy and advocacy to improve the status of women in the Louisville Metro area. OFW is a Policy, Advocacy & Outreach office within the Louisville Metro Department of Community Services and Revitalization. OFW Committee involvement examines women's needs, system responses and assists in development of recommendations. The Office serves as an information and resource hub, maximizing resources through community education & partnerships, communication, collaboration, interns/volunteers and technology.



Resources for those impacted by Domestic Violence

By: Josie Timmons, OFW Intern

October 31st is
the last day of
Domestic
Violence
Awareness
Month ...

but it is not the last
day to be aware.

[The Center for
Women & Families](#)

[The Mary Byron
Project](#)

[Kentucky Domestic
Violence Association](#)

[Kentucky Association
of Sexual Assault
Programs](#)

As we are closing out Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we want to point out that it's important to keep issues of intimate partner abuse and sexual violence in your forefront throughout the year, because these truly are issues that affect all of us in one way or another. If you have a friend or loved one that you believe are in a potentially dangerous relationship or situation, here are some things to keep in mind.

- Make sure they know you love and care about their safety.
- Make sure they know resources are available.
- Be careful when distributing paper resources, as it could lead to escalated situations, if found by a perpetrator.

Here are some valuable resources available to our community:

- VINE- Victims Information and Notification Everyday, is a notification program which a victim can sign up for, in order to get alerts to a status

change of their offender. For more information, or to register check out their [website](#)

- "Ride to Safety" Is a program created by a partnership between The Center for Women and Families (CWF) and TARC. If a domestic violence victim needs help getting to safety, they can board the bus and say "I need a ride to safety", or point to the CWF logo on the bus. Drivers have been trained to properly respond so that a collaborative process begins that will take the victim safely to CWF.
- Louisville Metro Visitation and Exchange Center- The Visitation & Exchange Center facilitates supervised visitation and exchange services for families with children when the parents have a history or potential for domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking. More information about the program can be found on the [OFW website](#).
- DVIC- Domestic Violence Intake Center- Can help with legal protections such as EPO/DVO. Click [here](#) for more information
- Personal Safety Plan brochure- [Here](#) you can find a copy of our brochure, which includes information to help you form a safety plan.

Seeking Other Community Resources?



The Department of Community Services and Revitalization (CSR) has released its FY12-13 report. It provides an overview of resources available through CSR. You can find the report online: [CSR Annual Report FY12-13](#).

Free 24 Hour Information Numbers:

Emergency Assistance9-1-1

CSR Services—Central Intake574-4377

The Helpline—for information and resources in Jefferson County and the surrounding area2-1-1

MetroCall—Louisville Metro Government information & services 574-5000 or3-1-1

Neighborhood Place—find your NP by calling MetroCall

